

For recent CDC update on *Lymphogranuloma venereum* and treatment recommendations for symptomatic patients and sex partner contacts, see the October 29, 2004 MMWR <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5342a2.htm>.

Instructions for Collection of Specimens for *Lymphogranuloma venereum* Testing

- I. Purpose: To provide guidance for collection and shipping of specimens from patients you suspect may have LGV.
- II. Symptoms of LGV:
 - Genital or rectal papule or ulcer
 - Tender, unilateral or bilateral inguinal and/or femoral adenopathy +/- local ulceration
 - Proctocolitis, hemorrhagic or non-hemorrhagic
 - Manifestations similar to inflammatory bowel disease
 - Tenesmus
- III. Specimen Collection Procedures (Clinicians)

Please submit both rectal specimens and serum from patients you suspect may have LGV.

 - 1) Rectal specimen collection
 - a. Equipment

For *immediate* collection (i.e. the patient is in clinic now or will be in the next day): Use the small swab in the tube included in a standard DNA hybridization (GenProbe) or DNA amplification test (BD, GenProbe, TMA, Roche) for specimen collection *not* the large tipped cleaning swab. If these test kits are not available, you may use a sterile, DRY swab. Place the swab into a specimen collection tube (no fluid or jelled medium should be included in the tube).
 - b. Collection Technique

Blind rectal specimens should be collected prior to anoscopy or sigmoidoscopy. Insert swab 3-5 cm into rectum, rotate against rectal wall several times. Discard swabs grossly contaminated with feces and repeat collection. If anoscopy or sigmoidoscopy is performed, collect specimen from visible mucosal ulceration. Specimens obtained during direct visualization when performing anoscopy or sigmoidoscopy are preferable.
 - 2) Serum collection
 - a. Collect approximately 5 mL of blood in red top vacutainer tube, and send to your local laboratory. Laboratory processing should include the following: prepare serum by incubating freshly drawn blood at 37° C for 30 minutes for clot to form. Then move to 4° C overnight to allow clot to contract. Serum should be separated by centrifugation at 10,000g for 10 minutes at 4° C. Your state PHL may assist with this procedure.
 - 3) Sex partner contacts

For asymptomatic sex partner contacts of a suspected or confirmed LGV case, you may also submit specimens for LGV testing if local lab urethral/urine testing is positive for *C. trachomatis*. Residual specimens can be reflex tested for genotype determination. The minimal volume of urine required for reflex genotyping is 1 mL but larger volumes are encouraged (up to 20 mL). Please also submit a serological specimen from these patients.

- 4) Other specimens
Other specimens may also be accepted. Please call John Papp or Catherine McLean to discuss first.

IV. Specimen packaging, storage, and shipping procedures

1) Labeling and Packaging

Package as typically packaged for sending specimens to your state lab. Specimens must be shipped to CDC following the Department of Transportation's Guidelines for shipping "Diagnostic specimens".

2) Specimen Storage Instructions

- Swabs can be stored at 2 to 8°C for up to 7 days. For longer storage, swabs should be frozen at -70°C and tested within 60 days of collection.
- Urine specimens should be frozen at -20°C and held in that condition during transit to CDC. Shipment to CDC should be arranged within 7 days of collection.
- Pack specimens for shipping with insulated cold pack or freezer pack.
 - ✓ Label each specimen with patient's clinic ID#, clinic name and anatomical site of specimen collection.
 - ✓ Please include a separate specimen information sheet for each specimen submitted in the shipment. Specimen information sheets are included at the back of this form and may be copied as necessary.

3) Shipping Instructions

- Specimens should be sent to your state public health laboratory with labeling that clearly indicates that the specimens should be referred to CDC.
- The state public health lab will need to complete DASH forms and follow the usual submission procedures for sending referral specimens to CDC. The state public health labs are familiar with these procedures.
- The state lab can then send the specimen(s) to CDC at the following address:

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Data and Specimen Handling Activity (DASH), Unit 32
BLDG 4, RM B35—G12
1600 Clifton Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30333
Attn: John Papp, Chlamydia Laboratory**

- **Note:** Reference testing specimens are accepted from State Health Department and Federal Agencies only. Specimens are sent to DASH first, and then will be transferred to Dr. Papp's laboratory.
- For questions regarding specimen handling and shipping, contact John Papp (404-639-3785) or Email: JPapp@cdc.gov.
- When specimens are shipped, please email Catherine McLean, CMclean@cdc.gov to notify the LGV Surveillance team

- 4) If you have a patient you suspect may have LGV or you have questions regarding these procedures, please contact:

Catherine McLean, MD, Division of STD Prevention (CDC)

Phone: (404) 639-8467, Fax: (404) 639-8610, Email: CMcLean@cdc.gov

Specimen Information Sheets: Please cut apart to use, or make duplicate copies as needed.

Your Name _____
Clinic Name _____
Clinic Address _____
Contact phone number _____
Fax number _____
Email _____
Clinic Patient Identification Number _____
Patient Name _____ Birthdate ____/____/____
Anatomic site of specimen(s) _____
Specimen Collected Under Direct Visualization: ☐ yes ☐ no
Date of specimen collection _____

☐ Check here if Catherine McLean, CMclean@cdc.gov has been emailed specimen shipment notification

Your Name _____
Clinic Name _____
Clinic Address _____
Contact phone number _____
Fax number _____
Email _____
Clinic Patient Identification Number _____
Patient Name _____ Birthdate ____/____/____
Anatomic site of specimen(s) _____
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